

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Canceled)
31. (Canceled)
32. (Canceled)
33. (Previously Presented) A stent for placement in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, said stent comprising:
a main tubular stent body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen therethrough, at least one side opening located between the proximal end and the distal end, and a spine region along a longitudinal axis of the stent body, said spine region having a first axial spine in a proximal portion of said stent and a second axial spine in a distal portion of said stent, said first axial spine having a different strut pattern than said second axial spine.

34. (Previously Presented) A stent as in claim 33 wherein the first axial spine expands radially in response to a first radially outward force, and the second axial spine expands radially in response to a second radially outward force, wherein the first force is less than the second force.

35. (Previously Presented) A stent as in claim 33 wherein the first axial spine expands radially in response to a first radially outward force, and the second axial spine expands radially in response to a second radially outward force, wherein the first force is greater than the second force.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) A method for deploying a stent in a bifurcated lumen, said method comprising:

providing a stent having a first portion, a second portion and a side opening between said portions, and wherein said first portion has a first axial spine and said second portion has a second axial spine;

expanding said first portion against a luminal wall segment on one side of the bifurcation;

aligning the side opening with the branch lumen; and

expanding the second portion on the other side of the bifurcation.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40 44 wherein said first axial spine comprises a different strut pattern than said second axial spine.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40 44-wherein said first and second axial spines are adapted to expand radially at different radially outward forces.

44. (Currently Amended) A stent for placement in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, said stent comprising:

a radially expandable stent body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen therethrough, and an expandable side opening, said side opening having a perimeter defined by a continuous band of material, wherein said continuous band of material comprises protrusions which project inwardly to define a peripheral edge of the side opening.

45. (Previously Presented) A stent as in claim 44 wherein said expandable side opening is generally circular in shape prior to expansion of said stent body and generally circular in shape after expansion of said stent body.

46. (Previously Presented) A stent as in claim 44 wherein said expandable side opening is generally elliptical or oval in shape prior to expansion of said ~~sent~~ stent body and is generally circular in shape after expansion of said stent body.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) A stent as in claim 44 wherein said expandable side opening is symmetric about a longitudinal axis of said stent body.

49. (Previously Presented) A stent as in claim 44 wherein said expandable side opening is symmetric about an axis extending laterally across said stent body.

50. (Previously Presented) A stent as in claim 44 wherein a shape of said side opening prior to expansion of said stent body is generally the same as said side opening shape after expansion of said stent body.

51. (Previously Presented) A stent as in claim 44 wherein a shape of said side opening remains generally constant during radial expansion of said stent body.

52. (Previously Presented) A stent as in claim 44 wherein an area of said side opening remains generally constant during expansion of said stent body.

53. (Previously Presented) A stent as in claim 44, wherein said side opening is adapted to expand when said stent body is radially expanded, and said side opening is adapted to further expand generally independent of said stent body radial expansion.

54. (New) A stent for placement in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, said stent comprising:

a radially expandable stent body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen therethrough, and an expandable side opening, said side opening having a perimeter defined by a continuous band of material, wherein a shape of said side opening prior to expansion of said stent body is generally the same as said side opening shape after expansion of said stent body.

55. (New) A stent for placement in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, said stent comprising:

a radially expandable stent body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen therethrough, and an expandable side opening, said side opening having a perimeter defined by a continuous band of material, wherein a shape of said side opening remains generally constant during radial expansion of said stent body.

56. (New) A stent for placement in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, said stent comprising:

a radially expandable stent body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen therethrough, and an expandable side opening, said side opening having a perimeter defined by a continuous band of material, wherein an area of said side opening remains generally constant during expansion of said stent body

57. (New) A stent for placement in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, said stent comprising:

a radially expandable stent body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen therethrough, and an expandable side opening, said side opening having a perimeter defined by a continuous band of material, wherein said side opening is adapted to expand when said

stent body is radially expanded, and said side opening is adapted to further expand generally independent of said stent body radial expansion.